

Dr. Timms' Bismillah

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FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1906.

Without sentiment, there would be

no flavor in life at all.—THACKERAY.

A Library Hint.

The Times-Dispatch is heartily in favor

of accepting Mr. Carnegie's offer to give

the city \$200,000 for a library building.

But we wish that he would remove the

condition. Not that we object to an

appropriation of \$10,000 a year to main-

tain the library. But some things are to

be taken for granted. There are many

obligations which a man is willing to

assume, but is unwilling to bind himself

in advance to do so, for the sufficient

reason that the requirement is in itself

in the nature of a reflection upon his

integrity. Every decent man, for example,

expects to give her a decent support. Yet

if the woman should require him to sign

a contract agreeing to spend not less than

five or six thousand dollars a year for

her "maintenance," he would, if a self-

respecting man, ask to be released from

the engagement, no matter how large his

income and how liberally inclined he

might be.

This is an extreme case, but it illus-

trates. Richmond is a rich and honorable

city, and if it should accept a gift from

Mr. Carnegie for a library building, it

goes without saying that Richmond would

furnish a site and appropriate from year

to year enough money to purchase books

and pay all necessary expenses.

That is a matter about which Mr. Car-

negie need give himself no concern. But

there is a matter of vital importance

which should be considered in advance.

We refer to the control of the library.

If it is to be a success it must be kept

out of politics and free from the domi-

nation of politicians. To real friends of

the library should draw up an ordinance

for the government of it, safeguarding

it at every point and making every pro-

vision for its welfare. That done, a com-

mittee should wait on Mr. Carnegie, show

him the ordinance, and explain the situa-

tion; then ask him if he is willing to

give the money on the terms thus pro-

posed.

If this course be pursued, we believe

that "two birds will be killed with one

stone."

Miss Arent's Offer.

Miss Arent's offer to lay out, equip

and open a commodious playground on

the site of the Clark Spring property,

should be accepted without an instant's

hesitation. Common sense, as well as the

experience of every other city where

playgrounds are in use, have demon-

strated the incalculable benefits of open

air exercise. Morals and health go hand

in hand. To give children strong bodies

and sound organs is to almost insure

them against perverted and criminal

tendencies. As a matter of duty, the

city owes its children every possible

facility for growth in health and char-

acter. To discuss the matter solely from

a commercial standpoint, it is clear that

such outlay as may be required for play-

grounds is more than made up by de-

creased criminal charges and increased

productivity.

Even if there was no monetary return

the duty and necessity of the case would

be in no wise altered. Playgrounds are

as necessary as schools, and almost as

efficacious in producing healthy, wealthy

and wise citizens. Indeed, the schooling

of the mind and body should proceed to-

gether. It is incredible that there should

be the slightest doubt on the part of the

city in accepting Miss Arent's offer.

Briefly that proposition is to buy the

Clark Spring property for as much as

anybody else is willing to pay for it; to

turn that tract into a playground for

every child which cares to come; to pro-

vide a physical director and a gymna-

sium and to add immeasurably to the

health and happiness of a whole section

of the city.

To state this large-hearted philan-

thropy is to destroy all argument to the

contrary.

We cannot believe that with such an

opportunity before it the Common Coun-

cil could entertain the idea of selling

the Clark Spring property to any private

person or corporation for private ends.

The Liability of Corporations.

Corporations sometimes try to escape

responsibility on the ground that they

are not "persons." Then, again, when

it suits their purpose they claim for them-

selves all the rights of individuals.

The Supreme Court of the United States

has recently knocked both of these con-

tentions on the head. Officials of the

American Tobacco Company refused to

produce their books before a grand jury,

on the ground that the evidence contained

therein might incriminate the corpora-

tion. The Supreme Court decided, how-

ever, that such a contention would not

hold in law. Justice Brown pointed out

that the right of persons under the Fifth

Amendment to refuse to incriminate them-

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the witness, and was not intended to

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